

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 17, 1981

POLAND: Third Day of Congress

Heated debate between liberals and conservatives may delay selection of a first secretary and prolong the congress. [REDACTED]

A hard-hitting speech by liberal Deputy Premier Rakowski on Wednesday drew enthusiastic applause--and quick rebuttal by subsequent conservative speakers. Rakowski yesterday told a Polish journalist that his strong plea for reform and criticism of hardliners was a "trial balloon" and that he would contest the election for party leader if he were nominated. [REDACTED]

Rakowski has little chance of winning such a contest, but he probably hopes to make a strong enough showing to land a seat on the Politburo. He may also be trying to rally the ranks of the moderates and liberals against the apparently well-organized conservative forces. [REDACTED] yesterday that many delegates seem to be enjoying the battle but have not yet come to grips with the issues. [REDACTED]

The congress late yesterday voted for a new 200-member Central Committee, but the results are not to be released until this morning. [REDACTED]

Positive Media Tone

Soviet media are portraying the mood of the party congress as predominantly conservative. Moscow television reported Wednesday that most speakers were attributing Poland's crisis to violations of socialist principles, rather than to "flaws" in the system--implying that the congress would not enact extensive institutional reforms. [REDACTED]

The broadcast also noted that the Soviet representative had received a cordial welcome. Soviet papers yesterday selected for quotation only speeches sounding conservative themes. [REDACTED]

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Soviet reporting has acknowledged, however, that some trends at the congress are not to Moscow's liking. *Izvestia* reported yesterday that "some speeches of a revisionist character" had struck a "discordant" note--an apparent reference to Rakowski's speech. Soviet reporting has also avoided any mention of the radical changes in electoral procedures or the proposal to limit the terms of party officials. [REDACTED]

